

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear President Ferguson:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 226 – *Prohibition on Outdoor Advertising Signs Along Expressways – Modifications*.

For two months, my Administration has been singularly focused on battling the most serious public health crisis to hit our great State in over a century. While we have made significant progress in stemming the tide of this deadly COVID-19 virus, we undoubtedly have a long, tough road ahead in getting our economy back to where it was prior to this crisis. Earlier last month, after Comptroller Peter Franchot announced that the State will experience a \$2.8 billion shortfall when we begin to recover from this crisis, I immediately implemented a number of significant fiscal measures. I directed all state agencies to implement immediate budget and hiring freezes, and further directed the Department of Budget and Management to develop significant state agencies budget reduction targets for FY 2021.

While it is certain that the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) budget will be out of balance in both FY 2020 and FY 2021, the only current unknown is the magnitude of MDOT's revenue and budget shortfalls. This legislation would risk the loss of a significant amount of federal funds to the State, which are a critical piece of MDOT's overall funding.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 226.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor